

scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Gabriel. I would also like to recognize his parents and the faculty of Ryan High School for their outstanding commitment to Gabriel's education. I wish him even greater success as he continues his education, and I am proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT MARSHA A. ROWE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Senior Master Sergeant Marsha A. Rowe, who retired March 9, 2007 from the 174th Fighter Wing, New York Air National Guard in Syracuse, New York after having served over 31 years of dedicated service in the United States Armed Forces. Her last duty position was Non-commissioned Officer in Charge of Plans, Scheduling, and Documentation in the 174th Fighter Wing Maintenance Operations Flight.

A native of Central New York, Sergeant Rowe's long and distinguished career in the United States Armed Forces began in January of 1976 when she enlisted in the New York Air National Guard. As a recent graduate of Indiana University, Sergeant Rowe was recruited for officer training but chose to join the enlisted ranks so she could work on the aircraft. All maintenance fields were combat positions and at that time not open to females, but Sergeant Rowe persisted and a waiver from National Guard Bureau allowed her to become a member of the 174th Maintenance Squadron Armament Section, working on gun and release systems and loading weapons on the A-37B Fighter Aircraft. Sergeant Rowe was named to the Load Standardization Crew, responsible for training all load crews, and earned the Maintenance Person of the Quarter Award. Soon after, Sergeant Rowe became the first female Recruiter in the 174th Fighter Wing. After her recruiting tour, Sergeant Rowe held numerous positions in the 174th Fighter Wing including Missile Shop Chief, Avionics Technician, Precision Measurement Equipment Lab Chief, Engine Manager, and Production Controller. In addition to the A-37B Dragonfly, she has worked on the A-10 Thunderbolt and the F-16 Falcon. Sergeant Rowe served in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, where she maintained the Electronics Counter Measure system on the F-16 Aircraft. Upon her return, she was chosen to carry the NY State Flag in both the Washington, DC and New York City Victory Celebration Parades.

In addition to her full-time position, Sergeant Rowe has served as the Program Manager for the Base Security Augmentee Program for the past 13 years. She was a member of the Base Honor/Color Guard from 1976-1998, a member of the Base Pistol Team, served on the Board of Directors for the All Services Club, and was instrumental in organizing the trip to Washington, DC for the dedication of the

Women's Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery. An animal advocate, Sergeant Rowe is involved in several organizations, and will be dedicating her retirement years to their causes.

Sergeant Rowe's military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal; the Air Force Commendation Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters; and the Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster. Her military unit awards include the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat 'V' device and four oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award. She also holds the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with nine oak leaf clusters; the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze service star, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three campaign stars; and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. Other service awards include the Air Force Longevity Service Award with six oak leaf clusters; the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hourglass device, Mobilization 'M' device, and Numeral 2; the USAF NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon; Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon; and the Air Force Training Ribbon. Her Foreign Service awards include the Kuwait Liberation Medal from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kuwait Liberation Medal from the Government of Kuwait. She is also the recipient of the N.Y. State Commendation Medal.

Sergeant Rowe is a very special person. She willingly served her Nation in time of war, and in time of peace, exuding integrity, loyalty and pride. For her unrelenting service to her country, Sergeant Rowe can retire knowing she has earned such a status. I wish her well in retirement and thank her for her years of hard work and dedication.

AWARDING OF CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL TO THE TUSKEGEE
AIRMEN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to the Tuskegee Airmen on March 29, 2007.

The Tuskegee Airmen were welcomed into the Capitol Rotunda to an excited and proud crowd of more than 700 people including family members, friends, press organizations, members of Congress, Colin Powell, and President Bush. As they came in walking and some being escorted in wheelchairs, I could clearly see the happiness on their faces. This was a day they had been anxiously waiting and living for. Finally, they received the honor and recognition that was so long over due. I was overwhelmed with joy and excited to see those in attendance.

Never in the history of Congress has such a large group been awarded a Congressional Gold Medal and I'm extremely proud to have been a part of this historical ceremony. I was overwhelmed with joy to see the excitement of the Tuskegee Airmen and their guests. The Rotunda was absolutely filled to capacity. This clearly demonstrates the value and appreciation people have for the contribution and sacrifice of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Their outstanding service during World War II was legendary. They fought the enemy abroad and racism at home. Despite being discriminated against, they rose to the challenge and broke down racial barriers in the United States Armed Forces. I'm forever grateful for their courage, bravery, and leadership.

I extend special thanks to Senator LEVIN for his leadership. I also extend thanks to you, Speaker PELOSI, Colin Powell, the United States Mint, and the Smithsonian Institution. My heart was warmed by the salute to the Tuskegee Airmen by President Bush. The entire ceremony was a memorable event and I will never forget it.

COMMENDING VATSALA GOYAL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Vatsala Goyal for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Vatsala is a student at Dunbar High School in Fort Worth, Texas.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Vatsala. I would also like to recognize her parents and the faculty of Dunbar High School for their outstanding commitment to Vatsala's education. I wish her even greater success as she continues her education, and I am proud to represent her in the 26th District of Texas.

SUBPRIME LENDING

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks. As the Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and as a member of the House Financial Services Committee, I consider helping ensure equal access to homeownership for all Americans a high priority of mine.

Therefore, I've grown increasingly concerned over the past several years about the disproportionate amount of higher priced subprime lending that is concentrated in the minority population and in minority neighborhoods. According to the 2005 HMDA data, 52% of African Americans and 40% Latino are in high-cost, subprime loans as compared to 19% of white families. I wonder whether some or most of these families could have qualified for a better, more affordable loan but were instead steered into a subprime loan by a lender or broker eager to make a profit.